



# THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 YORK AVENUE · NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

August 1, 1978

Dr. William R. DeCesare  
Chief  
General Clinical Research Centers Branch  
Division of Research Resources  
Department of Health, Education and Welfare  
National Institutes of Health  
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

Dear Dr. DeCesare:

For many weeks before I officially entered into my new responsibilities here, on July 1, the role of The Rockefeller University Hospital within the University has been one of my central policy preoccupations. Dr. Kappas tells me that you are now considering the continuation award in response to the revised budget that has been submitted. I could well understand if you had some questions that related to the recent transition of the presidency of The Rockefeller University.

I would be happy to enter into whatever conversation you wished about these matters, at your convenience. In fact I would hope that we might have more than one leisurely opportunity that could help enrich my own understanding of the functioning of diverse clinical research centers in different settings throughout the country.

Meanwhile I thought that it was important that I be able to convey my own very deep commitment to the role of clinical research within a broad based medical research institution such as ours. I have no question but that we will continue to make very large investments of time and effort and internal resources to continue a long-standing tradition of excellence in this branch of the University's activities. My only questions have to do with taking the maximum advantage of this particular setting and in reexamining the realities of contemporary time and place so that our own contribution can make the most effective use of all the other resources that are locally available. My own conception is that, whereas other institutions have operated GCRC's as adjuncts to a large existing patient care responsibility, we are in many respects relieved from those burdens and opportunities. On the other hand, we have an unparalleled base of connected basic sciences with which to relate; and at the same time we can build the most effective functional relationships by choice from the very rich repertoire of neighbors on York Avenue. So, besides the large proportion of my available time that I have been spending with Dr. Kappas and his colleagues, I have also been exploring every feasible opportunity for

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coordination and cooperation with our brethren at Memorial-S.K.I. and New York Hospital-Cornell University Medical College. These relationships will take some time to reach full fruition and I hope my remarks do not distract you from an appreciation for the existing programs at The Rockefeller University Hospital. I believe that they can reassure you about the seriousness of purpose about the future affairs of the Hospital which I know also the Board of Trustees shares with me.

I suspect you may also have seen a similar testimony in a recent issue of the Research Resources Reporter but I enclose a copy of those remarks for your immediate convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

JL/gel

cc A. Kappas

enclosure